

**Sent:** 4/26/2019 12:15:41 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Quick Request - Infrastructure ASAP - David, Wes and I put together these two examples for your considerations (not sure if these will fit your needs, so, use or ignore as appropriate). Ben

## **JACKSONVILLE DRINKING WATER INCIDENT – October 2018**

### **Background**

On October 3, 2018, the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation located south of Jacksonville, Texas, in Cherokee County, TX issued a “Do Not Use Order” on 16 water connections related to a back siphonage event at Arrington Sawmill. The back siphonage into the drinking water system occurred from a tank, without a backflow prevention device, containing a wood preservative, Methylene bis-thiocyanate (MBT), an active ingredient in the wood preservative that was utilized in treating wood pallets.

### **Expedited Assistance to TCEQ to Resolve the Issue**

The EPA Region 6 Houston Environmental Laboratory provided a real time assistance to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) with drinking water sample analysis for MBT. The Lab was able to quickly develop a unique Gas Chromatography analysis method for MBT. The lab analyzed 35 water samples received from TCEQ on October 10, 2018, all with non-detect results.

The Lab’s ability to expedite development of an MBT analytical method, analyze 35 samples, and confirm the absence of MBT from the drinking water system provided reliable and valuable information to TCEQ for their next steps.

## **CORPUS CHRISTI DRINKING WATER INCIDENT – December 2016**

### **Background**

On December 15, 2016, the EPA was notified about a warning issued to Corpus Christi’s 320,000 residents “Not Drink or Use Tap Water” following a back-flow incident at an asphalt terminal operated by Ergon Asphalts & Emulsions on the property of Valero Energy Corporation, Texas. EPA was alerted to be on standby to perform emergency analytical services. In addition, the City of Corpus Christi provided a news release that identified the chemical of concern as asphalt emulsifier, Indulin AA-86, estimating the amount of release to be from 3 to 24 gallons. The Department of State Health Services laboratory in Austin was unable to perform the analysis upon learning the chemical nature of the asphalt emulsifier.

### **Expedited Assistance to TCEQ to Lift Drinking Water Advisory**

The EPA Houston Lab Team was tasked with the emergency capability development of analytical methods for Indulin AA-86 in drinking water, and for developing the capacity to analyze numerous and recurring daily samples from the City’s drinking water system. The Team developed two new, time critical, analytical chemistry methods to detect Indulin AA-86. Additionally, the Team provided ‘around the clock’ analytical services for over 200 drinking water samples collected during the incident, from confirmatory sampling sites as well as complaint verification sampling. This herculean effort of highly qualified and dedicated professionals, and all negative test results, enabled the TCEQ to lift the Corpus Christi drinking water advisory on December 18, 2018.

## **Border Water Infrastructure Program**

**Project: Agua SUD Wastewater Residential Connections**

Location; Palmview, Texas

Project Description; Residents in the Project area, currently, do not have access to centralized wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure and only on-site wastewater disposal systems such as septic tanks/drain field or other types of on-site systems such as cesspools. Due to population density and soil conditions, these systems do not operate properly and are, generally, not in compliance with TCEQ requirements, often resulting in surface pooling of untreated or inadequately treated discharges. These conditions are further exacerbated during flooding events, when the risk for human contact with raw sewage increases and run-off into nearby drainage canals threaten the quality of water used for agriculture in the area. A Texas Department of Health Nuisance Order was issued for these conditions.

Project Scope: The Project consists of the installation of 1,752 wastewater hook-ups along with the decommissioning of the corresponding on-site disposal systems.

Project Time-Savings: Project development time and costs were reduced by 1 year and \$300,000, respectively. This was because of EPA was able to incorporate the NEPA work, geotechnical work and final designs funded by the TWDB, our project partner. Project Development time for this project was approximately 1.0 year compared to a typical 2-year project development time for similar type projects.

## 2. **Texas DWSRF and CWSRF**

The TWDB has an Urgent Need Program (DWSRF) and a Disaster Recovery Response Emergency Relief Program (CWSRF) to assist communities with urgent needs. Eligible projects/communities get additional subsidies, streamlined/expedited environmental and expedited public reviews. Projects under these programs may outrank (bypass) other projects in the States' annual intended use plans. The communities also receive technical assistance from TWDB to reach their funding at a quicker pace. During SFY 2018, the TWDB DWSRF program committed funds to several projects including (but not limited to):

- Ramirez Common School District. Project Amount \$800,000. All Urgent Need funding.
- Devine. Project Amount \$9,900,000. \$500,000 Urgent Need funding.
- Cisco. Project Amount \$15,159,900. \$500,000 Urgent Need funding. \$5,964,900 Disadvantaged Community funding.
- Mason. Project Amount \$2,669,200. \$700,000 Urgent Need funding. \$969,200 Disadvantaged Community funding.
- Holiday Beach WSC. Project Amount \$700,000. \$700,000 Urgent Need funding for Hurricane Harvey relief.